

**TESTIMONY**  
**ROBERT WESNIESKI, PRESIDENT**  
**THE AVON WATER COMPANY**  
**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**  
**MARCH 7, 2011**

**RE: OPPOSE - HB-6505, An Act Concerning Stream Flow Regulations**

My name is Robert W. Wesneski, President of the Avon Water Company. Our Company is an investor owned public utility servicing 15,000 people in Avon, Simsbury and Farmington.

**I submit this testimony in opposition to HB-6505, An Act Concerning Stream Flow Regulations.**

Although we support the goal of the stream flow regulations, we are concerned that the current stream flow regulations, which have already been rejected by the legislature's Regulations Review Committee twice, do not sufficiently address the concerns raised by public water suppliers that the proposed regulations will jeopardize the amount of water we need to meet customer needs. HB-6505 significantly expands the scope of the regulations before these concerns are adequately addressed.

Avon Water has used ground water from aquifers supplied by streams and brooks for 100 years without detriment to the environment. Under HB-6505, however, groundwater withdrawals may be severely limited. There are no assurances in the legislation that the amount of water we need to meet our public service obligations will be protected, potentially jeopardizing our ability to provide safe, potable water for both domestic and fire protection use to 15,000± customers. The future of nine full-time jobs and the cost of water to these 15,000 people depend on the outcome of this bill and others dealing with stream flow regulation.

At this point, although there are ongoing discussions among stakeholders, the revised regulations continue to create uncertainty regarding how much water will need to be released because the reservoir release requirements are tied to how DEP classifies each river and stream. If all streams utilized by the Company were classified as Class II, then our average daily demand would be short by 2.7 MGD at a replacement cost of \$4,600,000. If the streams were classified as Class 3, then the shortage drops to 2.1 MGD at a replacement cost of \$3,600,000.

We believe provisions included in SB-1020, An Act Concerning Water Resources and Economic Development, better address these concerns by specifically building in protections for safe yield and ensuring that streams used for public water supplies will be classified as Class 3 or 4. These provisions provide the necessary balance that will ensure that we can protect both the state's aquatic life and our public water supplies.